NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND THEIR PRICES.

The annexed communication is from a practical and experienced merchant. It conclusively exposes the perversions by which the *Union* and its kindred journals attempt to deceive the agricultural class in regard to the effect of the new tariff on breadstuffs. It is a fact (notwithstanding the boasted advance in the price of breadstuffs) that wheat and flour are lower now than they have been, on the average, for ten years past.

"DROWNING MEN CATCH AT STRAWS."

The truth of the above adage is strongly illustrated in a late article in the "Union," in which an attempt is gravely made to convince our farmers that the advance in breadstuffs, since the arrival of the steamer Britannia, is the consequence of the passage of the new tariff act.

The editors of the "Union" must have short memories, or must believe their readers have such, or that they read no other paper, and *believe* all that they read in the "Union."

The tariff act passed the House of Representatives early in July. The intelligence reached England on the 30th of the same month, and the first response to it came by the steamer Caledonia, which left Liverpool on the 4th August. The substance of that response was that the news had a cheering influence *in the manufacturing districts*; but the corn markets were very low—I believe lower for "free grain" than they have been for twelve months at least.

In the interval of the departure of the steamers of the 4th and 19th August, information was received in England that the tariff bill passed by the House had become the law of the land; and, since the arrival of the latter, the "Union," in a rhapsody, proclaims that "the very first steamer which 'brings intelligence from Europe since the receipt there of the 'news that our new tariff had become the law of the land, 'brings intelligence that raises the price of breadstuffs in all of 'our Atlantic ports."

The above is *literally true*; but, at the same time, from the manner in which it is stated, it conveys a most contemptible falsehood; and the editors of the "Union" must place a very low estimate on the understandings of their readers i[f] they suppose that they can be gulled by such humbuggery.

Who that is capable of reading, and has read the journals of the country since the arrival of the Britannia, does not *know* that the advance in breadstuffs in England, and by consequence that in the United States, was caused *entirely* by the occurrence of very unfavorable weather for the incoming harvest in England, and by the far more important fact that, between the 4th and 19th August, it was ascertained that the potato crop would be almost entirely lost? Yet these facts, the only ones having any influence whatever, are carefully kept out of view by the *Union*, and the advance in breadstuffs attributed to a cause having as little influence as the resolutions of '98-'99.

But has the Union no word of comfort for any body but the farmers—(I mean the growers of wheat and corn?) Can nothing be said to revive the drooping spirits of the *tobacco* planter? And, above all, what has the Union to say to the *cotton* planter, who is more generally a *buyer* than a seller of "breadstuffs," and whose hopes were so much excited by the passage of the tariff bill into "a law of the land?" What is the response, as far as this great interest is concerned, to the news that this bill is a law? Let the Union answer that question, and, if the answer be a true one, it must be "that prices were *slightly depressed*;" and this in the face of the fact of a very deficient crop last year, and no better prospect for that now in the ground. And, in addition to this, the Manchester spinners were threatening a resort to working but four days in the week, the inevitable consequences of which would be to *enhance the value of goods* and *prevent advance in cotton*, in spite of and in the face of a large defalcation in the supply.

MERCATOR.

WINTER CULTURE OF THE POTATO.

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 17, 1846.

MESSRS. EDITORS: The subjoined article on the "Winter Culture of the Potato," cut from the fourth number of the "TWENTY-FIVE CENT PAPER," recently established in New York, is worthy of the attention of farmers and gardeners. If the attempt to raise potatoes from seed sown in *the beginning of September* has been, as stated, successful in that higher latitude, it is probably not now too late to try the experiment at the present season in *this latitude*, which is many hundreds of miles south of the middle latitude of Prussia; and the inducement is still greater in latitudes south of this. Since seeing this article I have learned that a similar experiment has actually succeeded in an adjoining county, the particulars whereof may be hereafter communicated.

It is to be hoped that many may be induced to try the experiment, at least on a small scale, so that results may be compared for future benefit.

J. M. M.

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIMENT.—We learn that a successful attempt to raise potatoes from seed sown in the *beginning of September* has been made in Prussia. A correspondent of the Leipsic Gazette says that "in the beginning of September, by way of experiment, he laid out a little bed in his garden, and planted half with white and half with red potatoes, covering them only slightly with earth. The potatoes throve *more rapidly and stronger than in the spring season*." Another writer says: "In spite of the severe winter I have, on the 1st of November, covered up potatoes, (having a stalk only a foot high,) and they have grown admirably, and are perfectly formed." The writer states that "the specimen furnished him of these *winter* potatoes were indeed of *so remarkable* a kind that it furnishes a STRONG RECOMMENDATION in favor of winter culture."

In this connexion we would suggest to our farmers the propriety of making this experiment immediately, especially as the *rot* has cut off the prospect of our ordinary supply. If the experiment succeeds as above represented, we should like to see whether by this means the ravages of the rot may not be counteracted. We are inclined to think it may, especially if (as some think) the injury is the result of an insect.

PLEASURES OF SOLDIERING.—Major Forsyth, the Editor of the Columbus (Georgia) Times, has written several letters which rank high for graphic power and spirited details. From a recent letter the Richmond Enquirer extracts a few passages, showing how rich a field Mexico presents for a lover of Entomology and Natural History:

"This country is distinguished, above all other particulars, by its myriads of crawling, flying, stinging, and biting things. Every thing you touch has a spider on it. We are killing them all day in our tents. We never dare draw on a boot or put on a hat or garment without a close search for some poisonous reptile or insect crouching in their folds or corners. It is wonderful that we are not stung twenty times a day. Yesterday morning, while standing up at breakfast, (we never sit at meals for the want of the wherewith to make a seat,) I felt some strange thing crawling up my leg about the knee. It did not take me long to seize it with my hand and to disrobe. Looking into the leg of my off-drawn drawer, I beheld a villanous looking creature, of black and yellow, with a long bony tail. I called my mess to look at it, when Dr. Hoxey, who has been before in this reptile country, pronounced it a Mexican scorpion, and told me for my comfort that it was as poisonous as a rattlesnake. His sting was out, and no doubt when I clenched him in my hand he struck *out* at my clothes, instead of *in* at my flesh. 'Thinks I to myself' there's an escape. Besides these we have spiders, centipedes, hordes of flies, and every thing else that crawls, flies, bites, and makes a noise. A gang of locusts have domiciled themselves in our camp, and keep up a sleepless clatter all night. To this is joined the music of frogs and the barking of the prairie dogs. A few nights since a panther came smelling up to the lines of our sentries. All these small nuisances are universally pronounced in camp as death to one's patriotic emotions, and a right hard fight with the enemy, to be followed by a riddance of this pestilent country, would be hailed by the whole regiment as a consummation of too much happiness. But here we are to stay fighting his insects and vermin, with no present prospect of finding their masters, (our enemy,) for whose special use and appropriate comfort they seem to have been formed by Nature. Some few of our officers profess to be enamored of this country. The air here, near the seacoast, is certainly fine, and one is at a loss to account for the sickness; but, aside from that, I would willingly forego the possession of all the rich acres I have seen to get back from this land of half-bred Indians and full-bred bugs."

There have been two deaths by hydrophobia in Pittsburg this week. The victims were Mr. John Pritchard, a young man 18 years of age, who was bitten by a dog nine months ago, and Mr. Gustavus Sandoll Chandler, who was bitten four months ago. A man named Sprat was also suffering from the dreadful malady, and was not expected to survive.

JUSTICE TO THE ARMY.

The following article in the Courier and Enquirer does justice to the men who took part in one of the battles on the Rio Grande, and right glad are we to publish it:

BATTLES ON THE RIO GRANDE AND THE FLORIDA WAR. The praises of the nation and the thanks of legislative bodies have been freely given, in the most gratifying terms, to the army under Gen. Taylor, for the brilliant victories on the Rio Grande. But it is worthy of note that the training of the Florida war was very useful in preparing that army for success. The Baltimore Patriot of the 27th May contained a very beautiful complimentary article on the subject of the "Battles of the Rio Grande," which included this paragraph:

"In thirty odd years of peace, in thirty odd years of drilling, marching, and countermarching, &c. which had passed since the late war, there had nothing occurred, there was no chance offered to our soldiers, to prove that the blood of Seventy-Six had not degenerated in their veins."

The worthy editor had forgotten that humble war, the Florida war, which the majority of the people considered to this day as more a war upon dollars and cents, a war to exhaust the Treasury, than against a veritable foe. Now, we hazard the assertion that in no portion of our history did the officers and soldiers of an American army exhibit more hardihood, fortitude, enterprise, and valor than in that war, which has generally been such a theme for unjust reproach. Without the hope of glory, without the powerful stimulus which the sympathies of the nation impart, with a consciousness that in large portions of the Republic not only perfect apathy would be exhibited at the most signal success, but the sympathies of the people would often be with the foe even at the first news of the victories, those who engaged in that war had little to animate them but a sense of duty and professional pride. The active service seen by almost every regiment in Florida has been of vast benefit in moving the "cankers of a long peace," and in inuring the troops to marches, hardships, and the collision with a savage foe—in teaching them celerity of movement, and the habit of operating with light baggage and small transportation. A large portion, indeed, of the scouts in Florida were made without tents, and wading swamps where even a pack-mule could not penetrate, so that the means of transportation were left on the outside of those swamps, under the protection of a guard, until the troops should return. They have been known to be absent thus for seven days, carrying on their backs, officers and men, provisions for that period. On such a scout, if blessed with the sight of an enemy, it would be in the shape of an ambuscade, when wading through a deep swamp, the Seminole firing upon our advance and then decamping.

In ordinary Indian warfare, the task of the General was to drive the foe from one section of the country to another adjoining. Such was the province of our early Western wars: of General Wayne, in his campaign against the Northwestern Indians, and of General Jackson in the Creek and Seminole campaigns. General Jackson thought, forsooth, because he had succeeded in 1817 in driving the Seminoles from Georgia and Alabama into Florida, beyond the Suwannee, it would be an easy matter in 1835 to bring them to terms *in* Florida. But there the task was quite a different one, viz, to compel them to remove across the Gulf to a distant soil, to pluck them up by the roots and transplant them in Arkansas. No difficulty was ever experienced in dispossessing the enemy of any one section of Florida, but they would soon reappear elsewhere.

However, it is not our purpose in this communication to defend all the plans and arrangements of those who conducted the war, but to do justice to the body of the officers and to the rank and file. *Let it be remembered that the victories of* PALO ALTO *and* RESACA DE LA PALMA *were won, in great part, by the same officers and the same men who were so long wading the swamps of Florida.* It was a pleasure for them to meet a foe who came out on dry land and in a fair field. Long accustomed to an enemy who would ambuscade and seek instant safety in flight, it was as refreshing as an abundant shower after a long drought to meet a visible foe, drawn out in battle array, and who would stand up to his work. It is true that at *Okee-cho bee*, where General Taylor won a portion of his well-earned laurels, the Seminoles made more of a stand than ever before, except when surrounding a very inferior force; but even then the struggle was not of a character satisfactory to a soldier, who, above all, loves an enemy who will wait for the bayonet.

The operations of the Florida war upon the character of the troops was not favorable to discipline and instruction in tactics and evolutions of the line, so essential to regular warfare. But it imparted much practical knowledge, and inured all to habits of hardihood; and, notwithstanding the erroneous belief of masses of our people, we will add that no part of that war failed to show that, though embarked upon a thankless, inglorious, and harassing service, the troops possessed a spirit worthy of the days of '76. We know that it was the fashion to say the reverse. This was sometimes due to partisan abuse from the opposition. But often the Administration in power would join in the cry so as to save itself. Witness the convening of a Court of Inquiry at Frederick, Maryland, in the fall of 1836, to try General Scott for not closing the war in six weeks, when the whole power of the United States did not close it in six years! The ablest public documents on the subject of the war, elucidating its difficulties and defending the conduct of the troops, were the speeches of Mr. Benton and the annual reports of Mr. Poinsett. But the language of these state papers was never imprinted on the minds or memories of men. If listened to, they entered at one ear and passed out at the other, forgotten in a day. People pointed to the Texan battle of San Jacinto as furnishing the only offset to what they termed the "Florida disgraces," and the only evidence that the military qualities of our race had not degenerated. It has been the good fortune of the army, on the very borders of Texas itself, to dissipate forever this error, ten years subsequent to the battle of San Jacinto.

We have written thus much, believing that it is the most natural thing in the world to compare events which have occurred in the same latitude, on opposite sides of the Gulf of Mexico, and that our army will be very desirous that the investigation shall be as close and scrutinizing as possible.

EXTRACTS FROM LATE FRENCH PAPERS.

The English have at length founded an establishment on the northwest coast of Borneo, at the mouth of the river of that name. They have obtained from the sovereign of the independent kingdom of Borneo the right to establish a station, destined to resemble their establishment at Singapore; and in a few years this settlement will be rising to as much importance as this prosperous city. It is known that in 1819 Sir Thomas Raffles obtained permission to found a settlement in a little Indian isle, between the southeast coast of Malacca and the isle of Sumatra. Now, at the end of twenty-seven years, this modest establishment has become the city of Singapore, containing 50,000 inhabitants, of whom 20,000 are Europeans, and transact every year business to the amount of one hundred and twenty millions. In truth, when we compare the progress of England with the want of enterprise of our Government, we feel indignant and almost ashamed.

There are now in Paris thirteen young men, natives of Senegal, who are receiving, at the expense of the French Government, an education, which will enable them on their return to Africa to contribute to the civilization of their country. Seven of these young men are in boarding schools, three at the schools for science and trade, and three at the institution of Ploermel, and they all justify the sacrifices France has made in their behalf, by their diligence and good conduct. This fact is worth noting, as a proof that there is no nature upon which education may not exert an influence.

It appears by the last accounts from Denmark that grea[t] agitation prevails in that country on the question of the succession of the Duchies. Protests against the declaration of the King on this subject have been sent in by the Princes who are claimants, not only to the King himself but also to the Germanic confederation.

The Legitimist journal *La France*, alluding to its losses, says: "We have lost powerful auxiliaries of our cause, but we are not vanquished. To supply the place of our absent friends we have obtained men of head and of heart, who will prove that, in the defence of monarchical principles and national right, intelligence is a substitute for number."

The tariff war between Belgium and Holland appears to have been a disastrous one to the former, whatever it may have been for the latter. In the first five months of 1845 the exports to Holland from Belgium, amounted in weight to 10,554,265 kilogrammes. The returns for the corresponding months of 1846 show only a total of 5,457,355 kilogrammes.

During the last year, says an Algiers journal, there were sold in Algeria 5,250 estates, amounting together to 12,418,558fr.

THE NEW POPE.—A correspondent of the Journal des Debats relates the following anecdotes of the new Pontiff:

"A few days since he was informed that tri-colored Italian cockades had been found scattered about the streets in certain cities of Romagna, and, as some importance was given to this fact, he replied, "As for me I am pleased at the circumstance; for it proves that now the liberals, finding nothing to do with these cockades, throw them into the street."

"On another occasion, having learned that Monseignir Marini, the Governor of Rome, wished to oppose the subscriptions in favor of the people who were in want among those included in the late amnesty, he immediately gave his authority to the subscription, and when the next day the Governor had an audience of the Pope, he said to him with gentleness, and as if ignorant of the matter, "I beg you to send for the directors of the subscriptions which are being made in favor of those persons lately pardoned, and thank them from me for the good they have done, for no one appreciates more than I do their generous conduct in this matter."

MARLBOROUGH'S BATTLES.

A very interesting paper in a late number of Blackwood (says the Courier and Enquirer) is that on *Marlborough's Despatches*, which presents a view of the closing campaigns of that great Captain, written with great spirit and knowledge of details. The siege of *Tournay* and the battle of *Malplaquet* especially are painted with a particularity of detail and fire of narration that causes the eye almost to see the moving columns swept out of existence by the springing of secret mines, or the murderous discharge from countless batteries, and the heart to listen as it throbs under the trumpet tones of the great commanders, *Marlborough* and *Eugene* on the one side, *Boufflers* and *Villars* on the other, as they spring forward to lead their gallant battalions.

The victory of Malplaquet cost the allied forces of English, Dutch, and German, commanded by Marlborough, 20,000 men in killed and wounded, or about one-fifth of the number engaged. The vanquished party, the French, with about equal forces in the field, did not lose more than 14,000 men. This disparity is accounted for by the enormous losses sustained by the allied army in the desperate storming of the strong and amply-armed and vigorously defended entrenchments, behind which laid the French force.

No more striking scene has been commemorated than that recorded in the following extract as occurring on the day of the battle of *Malplaquet*. The season was early autumn—the month September; the region, in the heart of Flanders. On the preceding evening, 10th September, all the corps of the allied army had reached the respective points opposite the wooded and entrenched position of the French, whence next day they were to make the attack, and "the men lay down to sleep, anxiously awaiting the dawn of the eventful morrow." That morrow came, and—

"At three in the morning of the 11th divine service was performed with the utmost decorum at the head of every regiment, and listened to by the soldiers, after the example of their chief, with the most devout attention. The awful nature of the occasion, the momentous interests at stake, the uncertainty who might survive to the close of the day, the protracted struggle now to be brought to a decisive issue, had banished all lighter feelings, and impressed a noble character on that impressive solemnity. A thick fog overspread the field, under cover of which the troops marched with the utmost regularity to their appointed stations; the guns were brought forward to the grand battery in the centre, which was protected on either side by an *epaulement*, to prevent an enfilade. No sooner did the French outposts give notice that the Allies were preparing for an attack than the whole army stood to their arms, and all the working parties, who were still toiling in the trenches, cast aside their tools and joyfully resumed their places in the ranks. Never, since the commencement of the war, had the spirit of the French soldier been so high, or so enthusiastic a feeling infused into every bosom."

Some thirty-five thousand human beings, killed or miserably maimed, whom that morning's sun beheld in full life and vigor, strewed, ere it sat, the field and the environs of this solemn religious service. Is not this striking and sad? We add to it the record of another religious service on the battle-field after the victory of *Malplaquet*:

"Few prisoners (not above five hundred) were made on the field, but the woods and entrenchments were filled with wounded French, whom Marlborough, with characteristic humanity, proposed to Villars to remove to the French headquarters on condition of their being considered prisoners of war—an offer which that general thankfully accepted. A solemn thanksgiving was read in all the regiments of the army two days after the battle, after which the soldiers of both armies joined in removing the wounded French on two hundred wagons to the French camp. Thus, after the conclusion of one of the bloodiest fights recorded in modern history, the first acts of the victors were in raising the voice of thanksgiving and doing deeds of mercy."

It does seem one of those strange inconsistencies, of which reasoning and immortal man is alone guilty, that, after so fearful a strife to harm and destroy each other, the two contending armies should vie with each other "in doing deeds of mercy."

ARMY OF THE WEST.

FROM THE MISSOURI REPUBLICAN OF SEPT. 10.

We have taken some pains to procure accurate information in regard to the condition and future prospects of the "Army of the West," under Gen. KEARNEY, and we acknowledge that the result of our inquiries fills us with solicitude. We have great confidence in the commander of the expedition. We know his prudence, his perseverance, his ability to surmount great and extraordinary difficulties, but we are satisfied also that he has to encounter such difficulties, and that it will be a miracle if he escapes them. Gen. Kearney, it is now certain, leaves the United States under peculiar and most critical circumstances. He reached Fort Bent, with a command of at least 1,800 men, nearly all of whom were mounted when they left Fort Leavenworth; the exception is to be found in the companies of infantry, which were received into the service before his departure from the Fort. He has been followed by a battalion of five hundred infantry, composed of Mormons; by Col. Price's regiment of mounted men, a thousand strong, and by Major Willock's battalion, consisting of five hundred mounted men. In the course of the present month another regiment of infantry will be organized and on their way, numbering at least one thousand men. And to these are to be added a thousand men at least connected with the train of the army. Should they ever reach Santa Fe, the command will consist, in round numbers, of forty-eight hundred men; and with the teamsters and attendants of the camp, it will be swelled to six thousand. At least this number will, at all events, have to be subsisted, and that subsistence must, beyond question, be derived from the United States.

Gen. Kearney arrived at Fort Bent on the 30th of July, and left on the 2d of August. He had a limited supply of rations, and these were *extenuated* by reducing the men to half rations. But he was not permitted, by circumstances, to stop there and await supplies; for he was in absolute want of forage for his horses. He was compelled to take up the line of march in order to find food for them on the prairies. This is the true cause of his brief stay at Fort Bent, and denotes the difficulties in his way and in that of the mounted men who were to follow him. To all our inquiries as to the prospect of forage for his animals at Santa Fe, we have received the same uniform answer: it was not to be had, except in very limited quantities, at the rancheros from ten to twenty and more miles from Santa Fe. In the whole department the highest estimate of the surplus wheat is 7,000 to 8,000 bushels, and corn was so scarce as to make it worth, when it could be obtained at all, $3.50 per bushel. Such is the prospect presented for the support of the horses, mules, and cattle which accompany the expedition.

Now as to supplies from the United States. Strange as it may seem, the several detachments of wagons, upon which alone troops could rely for provisions, were dispatched without a military escort, and with no other means of defence than a few muskets, and a very limited supply of ammunition, placed in the hands of the teamsters. Indians suddenly, and very unexpectedly to all, made their appearance on the road, with the evident intention of robbing the trains and taking such things as they wanted. The teamsters were not in a condition to resist them, and, as this became evident, there can be no doubt that the Indians became more daring in their encroachments, until, it is probable, life as well as property was taken. It is known that from one team fifteen oxen were run off in a night: there was no other alternative than to stop with it altogether, or lessen the number employed in hauling other teams, to get it along.

These difficulties were, it is feared, only commencing, and unless Colonel PRICE, who was in the rear with his regiment, undertook to give the Indians a sound drubbing, all the provision wagons were in danger of being delayed, if not cut off, and the army left to starve. We do not know enough of army matters to say where the blame belongs, but it seems to us that there has been gross neglect in not sending a proper military guard to protect the various detachments of provision wagons.

From the facts which we have stated, some idea may be formed of the probable condition and the prospects of the "Army of the West" on its arrival at Santa Fe. Unless provisions reach there before the winter sets in, the main reliance of the men for subsistence must be upon the sheep to be found and the limited quantity of wheat and corn to be purchased in that region. This, it must be confessed, is not a very flattering prospect for an army, but no other presents itself to us as in store for them.

OREGON.

As the great problem is at length solved, showing what portion of the Oregon territory belongs to Great Britain and what portion to the United States, the next thing is to examine the value of the possessions thus allotted to us. Many descriptions of Oregon have been published, but none which we have seen bears so evidently the marks of candor and a personal acquaintance with the subject as the one which has just reached us from Canton, China. We learn from a correspondent there that it was written by Rev. Mr. HINES, who for several years has resided in Oregon as a missionary of the Methodist Church, and has recently returned to this country, taking China in his way. He there left the manuscript of his description, and it was printed at the Hong Kong Register office, *after* his departure for the United States. He arrived here on the 4th of May last.

Mr. Hines describes the Oregon territory as bounded northerly one hundred and twenty miles by Puget Inlet, and from the eastern termination of that inlet by a ridge of mountains which divides the waters of Frazer's river from those which flow into the Columbia—said ridge extending in a direction east northeast to the Rocky Mountains. According to this definition, the United States have in truth got nearly "the whole of Oregon," though they have stopped a long way short of 54 40. The natural boundary described by Mr. Hines is the boundary which would have resulted from Mr. Calhoun's able argument in support of the American title, addressed to the British Minister, Mr. Pakenham. Mr. C. claimed for the United States all the country drained by the Oregon or Columbia river. It is, however, better to adopt the forty-ninth parallel, agreeably to the treaty just signed and ratified, because it leaves no chance for future differences, and gives us a territory more symmetrical and compact.

The Pacific coast which falls to us under the treaty is about four hundred and fifty miles in length, extending from latitude forty two to Cape Flattery, at the entrance of Puget Inlet. Along the inlet we have a "water front" of one hundred and twenty miles; making a total of near six hundred miles of coast, without including the gulf, which projects from the east end of Puget Inlet far to the southward, commonly called Admiralty Inlet. These two inlets—the latter of which is wholly ours—contain a plenty of good harbors, and they are the only good harbors we possess on that coast. South of Cape Flattery, the only harbor which a ship can enter is the mouth of Columbia river, and *that*, as all our readers know, is difficult of access, and often extremely dangerous.

The area of surface embraced within American Oregon, as defined by the treaty, is probably not less than 300,000 square miles; or more than six times that of the State of New York. From Mr. Hines's description of it we now proceed to quote in his own words. The reader will observe that the country about Puget's Sound, which has been generally described as an excellent agricultural district, is represented by Mr. Hines as extremely barren, although "level and exceedingly beautiful." Strictly speaking, he says, there is *no soil*. The prairies are covered with shingle, or small stones, with scarcely any admixture of earth. Indeed there are but few places on this somewhat extensive tract where any thing can be raised. And this, be it observed, is the tract or district about which two great nations have been disputing these thirty years, and for the possession of which they have at times been in imminent danger of incurring the direst calamities.

"The face of this country (says Mr. Hines) is wonderfully diversified, and presents every variety of scenery, from the most awfully grand and sublime to the most beautiful and picturesque in nature. In the vicinity of Puget's Sound the country is level and exceedingly beautiful, and consists mostly of prairie land, with but a small portion of timber; but, with this exception, all along the coast it is broken and mountainous. On approaching the coast at the mouth of the Columbia river ridges of highlands appear on either hand as far as the eye can reach, and the more elevated points serve as landmarks to guide the mariner through the intricate channel across the fearful 'Bar of the Columbia.' One high mountain, called by the Indians 'Swalalahoost,' from an Indian tradition, and from its appearance, is supposed to have once been an active volcano. With but little variation the country, from thirty to fifty miles back from the coast, presents a rough, wild, and mountainous aspect, and is covered, with dense forests of fir, spruce, and cedar trees. Passing over this broken border of the country, you descend on the north side of the Columbia into the valley of the Cowlitz, and on the south into that of the Wallamette river. These valleys extend eastward to that range of mountains which, crossing the Columbia river, forms the Cascades, and is therefore called the 'Cascade Mountains.' Comprised in these valleys are many extensive prairies, beautiful woodlands, numberless hillocks, rising grounds, and majestic hills, from the top of some of which scenery as enchanting as was ever presented to the eye delights and charms the lover of nature, who takes time to visit their conical summits. That part of Oregon extending from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific ocean is called the 'Lower Country,' and is about one hundred and thirty miles wide.

"The Cascade Mountains extend in one continuous range, parallel with the coast, quite to California, and have therefore sometimes been called the 'Californian range.' Those whose mountain observations have not been very extensive can form no just conceptions of the grandeur and magnificence of this stupendous range. The highest peaks are covered with eternal snows, and, presenting their rounded tops to the heavens, appear like so many magnificent domes to adorn the great temple of Nature. Some of them are more than fifteen thousand feet above the level of the sea. From one elevation, near the Wallamette river, and from sixty to one hundred and fifty miles distant, the writer has counted eight of these snow-capped mountains without moving from his tracks. Surely no sight can be more enchanting. One of these mountains, viz. St. Helen, requires a more particular account, from a phenomenon which it presented three years ago. In the month of October, 1842, this mountain was discovered all at once to be covered with a dense cloud of smoke, which continued to enlarge and move off in dense masses to the eastward, and, filling the heavens in that direction, presented an appearance like that of a tremendous conflagration viewed at a vast distance. When the smoke had passed away, it could be distinctly seen from various parts of the country that an eruption had taken place on the north side of St. Helen; and, from the smoke that continued to issue from the chasm or crater, it was pronounced to be a volcano in active operation. When the explosion took place vast quantities of dust or ashes were thrown from the chasm, and fell in showers for many miles distant. This mountain is the most regular in its form and most beautiful in its appearance of all the snow-clad mountains of Oregon, and, though on the north side of the Columbia, it belongs to the Cascade range. Mount Hood, on the south side of the Columbia, is more elevated than St Helen, and presents a magnificent object, on which the eye can gaze without weariness from innumerable points more than one hundred and fifty miles from its base. But any description of these gigantic piles of basalt and snow must fall far below the reality; and it is only necessary to gaze for one moment upon these majestic glaciers to be impressed with the insignificance of the works of art when compared with the works of Nature.

"Passing over the Cascade Range to the eastward, you come into another extensive valley, which reaches to the foot of another range, which, from its azure-like appearance, is called the "Blue Mountains." This valley is about two hundred miles broad, and is called the "middle country." A number of beautiful rivers flow through this valley, and it is also intersected by broken ridges, which divide the numerous streams by which it is watered. This part of the country abounds in extensive plains and 'prairie hills;' but timber is so very scarce that the eye of the traveller is seldom delighted with the appearance of a tree. 'The Blue Mountains' are steep, rocky, and volcanic, and some of them are covered with perpetual snow.

"They run nearly parallel with the Cascade Range, though far to the south branches of them intersect with the latter range. They are about midway betwixt the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. The country east of the Blue Mountains is the third, or upper region, and extends to the eastern boundary of the Territory of Oregon. The face of it is more varied, if possible, than it is in that part of the country lying west of the Blue Mountains, the southern part being distinguished by its steep and rugged mountains, deep and dismal valleys, called 'holes' by the mountaineers, and wide gravelly plains.

"The northern part is less objectionable in its features; the plains being more extensive, the mountains less precipitous, and the valleys not so gloomy. Many portions of this upper region are volcanic, and some of the volcanoes are in constant action. Many of the plains of this region are covered with carbonate of soda, which, in some places, may be gathered in vast quantities, and renders the soil generally unproductive. On the eastern limits of this region rise in awful grandeur the towering summits of the Rocky Mountains, which have been very properly called the 'back bone' of North America. The highest land in North America is in this range, and is near the 53d parallel of north latitude. It is called 'Brown's Mountain.'

"Near this, and in a tremendous gorge of the mountains, one of the principal branches of the Columbia takes its rise. In this region the country presents the wildest and most terrific appearance.

"Stupendous glaciers, and chaotic masses of rocks, ice, and snow, present themselves on every side, and defy the power of language fully to describe them.

"So far as the face of this entire country is concerned, perhaps no other in the world presents a more varied or a more interesting appearance.

"The climate of Oregon varies materially as you proceed from the coast into the interior. To a proper understanding of the climate, it is necessary to consider the winter and summer separately. The winds which prevail in the winter are from the south and east, sometimes veering to the southwest. They usually commence about the first of November, and continue till the first of May.

"Sometimes they come on gradually, but at some seasons they burst upon the country at once, and with the violence of a thunder storm. They are always attended with continued falls of rain, and the period of their continuance is therefore called the rainy season. During the rainy season there are intervals of warm pleasant weather, which are generally followed by cold chilly rains from the south and west. In the latter part of winter there are generally light falls of snow throughout the country, though in the valleys, and particularly in the Wallamette valley, it seldom falls more than two or three inches deep. However, in the winter of 1841 and '42 the snow fell in this valley twelve inches deep, but eight days afterwards it had all disappeared.

"Though the winters are disagreeable on account of the chilliness of the southeast winds, and the extreme humidity of the atmosphere, yet the cold is very moderate, the thermometer seldom falling below freezing point. As a matter of course the ground is seldom frozen, and therefore ploughing may be done a great portion of the winter. Occasionally, however, there is an exception to this. A few days before the great fall of snow already mentioned, the mercury fell in some parts of the country to fifteen degrees below zero, and it continued excessively cold for several days. The lakes were all frozen, so that cattle and horses could pass over them on the ice, and the Columbia river, as far down as the mouth of the Wallamette, was bridged with ice for the period of fifteen days. A similar circumstance occurred in the winter of 1834.

"In the middle region the rains are not so abundant as in the lower country; the weather is colder, and there is consequently more snow. In that portion of Oregon east of the Blue Mountains, called the upper region, it seldom rains except in the spring, and then the rains are not protracted. Vast quantities of snow fall in this region, particularly in the mountains. This part of the territory is distinguished for the extreme dryness of its atmosphere, which, with the vast difference in the temperature betwixt the day and night, forms its most peculiar trait, so far as climate is concerned. From sunrise till noon the mercury frequently rises from forty to sixty degrees.

"It should be observed that none of the winters of Oregon are either so stormy or so cold but that cattle, horses, sheep, &c. find ample supplies of provender on the wide-spread prairies, whither they are driven to roam at large.

"If the winters of Oregon are rather stormy and unpleasant, the summers are sufficiently delightful to counterbalance all that is disagreeable in the winters.

"In the month of March the weather becomes sufficiently warm to start vegetation, so that thus early the prairies become beautifully green, and many of Flora's choicest gifts appear to herald the approach of summer. The summer winds are from the west and north, and there is seldom any pleasant weather, except when these prevail. After a long rainy winter the people of this country look for the healthy and exhilarating breeze from the bosom of the Pacific with great solicitude. At length the wished for change takes place. The howl of the storm and the roar of the southern winds are hushed to silence; the hills and valleys are gently fanned by the western zephyr, and the sun, pouring his floods of light and heat from a cloudless sky, causes Nature as by enchantment to enrobe herself in all the glories of summer. The delightful weather thus ushered in continues through the entire summer with but little deviation, and the temperature of the atmosphere, particularly in the Wallamette valley, is agreeably warm and uniform. At noon in the warmest weather the thermometer ranges at about 82° in the shade, but the evenings are considerably cooler. The coolness of the evenings doubtless goes far to neutralize the effects of the malaria that is exhaled through the influence of the sun from the swamps and marshy places which are found in some parts of the country. From personal experience and extensive observation in reference to this particular, the writer is prepared to express the opinion that the climate of Oregon is decidedly favorable to health. And why should it not be? The temperature, particularly in the lower country, is remarkably uniform. The country is not therefore subject to the evil resulting from sudden changes from extreme heat to extreme cold. The exhilarating ocean breeze, which sets in almost every day during the summer, contributes greatly to purify the atmosphere. These circumstances, connected with the fact that there is but little decaying vegetable matter in the country and but few dead swamps and marshes to send forth their poisonous miasma to infect the surrounding regions, are sufficient to show that Oregon must be the abode of health, and that human life is as likely to be protracted and men to die of old age in this country as in any other portion of the world. Indeed, such is the healthiness of the climate of this country that but very few white persons have here sickened and died since its first occupancy by such, more than thirty years ago. Yet, with these facts before them, there are persons who are ready to publish far and near that the climate of Oregon, and particularly of the lower country, is 'decidedly unhealthy—that the most malignant and fatal fevers prevail,' than which no representation could be more erroneous.

"True, the ague and fever, in a very modified form, sometimes prevails in the lower country; but it is easily controlled by proper remedies, and finally leaves the person with a vigorous and unimpaired constitution, and seldom returns the second season. Those persons who have lived longest in the country are generally the most healthy and vigorous; which of itself is a sufficient proof of the friendliness of the climate to the promotion of health. If there is any difference between the different portions of Oregon in regard to the healthiness of its climate, the middle region and that immediately along the coast are the most salubrious. The climate of the valleys of the Wallamette, Cowlitz, Umpqua, and Klamet rivers is well calculated for wheat, barley, oats, peas, apples, peaches, patatoes, turnips, and all other vegetables usually cultivated in the temperate latitudes; while horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, &c. flourish and multiply beyond all parallel; but, in the middle and some parts of the upper region the climate is well adapted to all the pursuits of a pastoral life.

"With a uniform, salubrious, and delightful climate, as well adapted to purposes of agriculture as any within the same degrees of latitude in any part of the world, Oregon loses much of its importance if the *fertility* of the *soil* does not correspond with the nature of the climate.

"The soil of Oregon has been variously represented by persons who have visited the country. Some have viewed it in altogether too favorable a light, while others have greatly underrated it. Some have placed it among the first in the world, while others have considered Oregon as a boundless desert, fit only to be the habitation of wild beasts and savage men. These conflicting representations doubtless have arisen from a superficial acquaintance with the country by the authors of them. They have either not stayed in the country a sufficient length of time to become acquainted with its real productiveness, or they have relied upon that information which has been artfully designed to prevent the country from being known.

"The bottom lands, on each bank of the Columbia river, are subject to an annual inundation, which is occasioned by the melting of the vast quantities of snow which fall on its upper branches among the mountains. This flood continues through the month of June and into July, so that, whatever may be the richness of the land thus overflown, but small portions of it will ever be brought to contribute to the support of man. There are, however, some portions which lie above high water mark, and are remarkably fertile, and produce in abundance all the grains and vegetables common to the best parts of the country. Fort Vancouver is situated on one of these higher parts of the Columbia valley, and here a farm of two thousand acres is cultivated, and produces annually several thousand bushels of grain. Here also apples, pears, and peaches are cultivated successfully, and grapes are brought to a degree of perfection.

"Though but few attempts have as yet been made to cultivate the uplands, or timbered lands, yet sufficient has been done to prove that the soil of these portions must be of a superior quality. And, indeed, this is attested by the immense growth of the timber itself. No inferior soil could send forth those enormous trunks, which, in their upward progress, spread their magnificent branches to the skies, and often rear their heads to the amazing height of three hundred feet.

"Clatsop Plains, on the south side of the Columbia river, near its mouth, embracing an area of about sixty square miles, are amazingly fertile, being composed of a rich alluvial deposite, and producing all kinds of vegetables in the greatest abundance. The country around Puget's Sound, on the north side of the river, is altogether of a different character. The prairies are extensive and beautiful, the scenery most delightful, but, strictly speaking, there is *no soil* in the country. The prairies are covered with shingle, or small stones, with scarce any mixture of earth. Indeed, there are but few places on this somewhat extensive tract where any thing can be raised. Attempts have been made to redeem it from its native barrenness; but, as yet, all have failed.

"The Hudson's Bay Company transported some of their surplus population at Red river to this region; but, in consequence of the sterility of the country, they soon became discouraged, and, though contrary to the wishes of the company, they have abandoned the place and have settled elsewhere. And yet this region has been represented as distinguished alike for the salubrity of its climate and the fertility of its soil. The climate is, indeed, delightful; but the soil is exceedingly forbidding, and can never perhaps be recovered from its extreme barrenness.

"Of all the different parts of Oregon, those watered by the Cowlitz and Chehalish rivers, on the north side of the Columbia, and those on the south, through which the Wallamette, with its numerous tributaries, and the Umpqua and Klamet rivers flow, are unquestionably the most fertile. The valley of the Wallamette, which embraces an area of twenty-five thousand square miles, is undoubtedly entitled to the appellation of the garden of Oregon. The close observer, in travelling through this valley, will discover several kinds of soil. On the lower bottoms, in some places, is a sandy soil, in others a kind of black marle, or loam. There is but little difference in the productiveness of the two kinds. They are both the alluvial deposites of the Wallamette river. On the second bottoms, or high prairies, as they are called, the soil is of a dark loamy clay, and is as strong and fertile as the lower grounds. Some yellow gravelly sand is found high up the river, but this embraces but a small proportion of the valley. The ability of the soil to produce is best ascertained by considering the crops which are annually taken from the land. Under the present system of cultivation, the average amount of wheat taken from the English acre is from twenty-five to thirty bushels. The amount of labor required to accomplish this is comparatively trifling. The writer has formerly resided in the great wheat-growing country of Genesee, in the State of New York, and understands the amount of labor necessary to raise a thousand bushels of wheat in that country; and, from observations in Oregon, he has been brought to the conclusion that it requires much less labor to raise a thousand bushels in the latter country than it does in any part of Genesee Flat. The prairies of the Wallamette and other valleys are unlike any thing that can be found in any other country. They are naturally very mellow, and appear, as one is passing over them, as though it had been but a year or two since they were cultivated. They are not swarded over with a thick strong turf, as in the Western States, but they can be easily ploughed with one good pair of horses, and, with once ploughing, are ready to receive the seed, and seldom fail, even with the first crop, bountifully to reward the husbandman. The first crop, however, is never so good as the succeeding ones. It is not an uncommon thing for farmers, without using any extraordinary means, to take from fifty to sixty-five bushels of wheat from an acre, and this has been the average through entire fields.

"Doubtless, if farmers would take more pains in cultivating the land, they would realize much more from the acre than they do now; but, if they lose any thing in this respect, they gain an equivalent in the immense number of acres which they cultivate. The amount of English grain raised by the different farmers in the country varies from fifty to three hundred acres each. As wheat never suffers from blight, and as there are no insects to trouble it, a good crop is as sure to reward the labor of the husbandman who sows his seed as day and night to continue until harvest time. This certainty of a good crop is owing as much to the nature of the climate as to the quality of the soil. Some other crops are not so certain. Potatoes frequently suffer from drought, as also Indian corn. But the soil and climate are well adapted to raising melons, cucumbers, beets, cabbages, and all kinds of garden vegetables. Apples, peaches, and all kinds of fruits which abound in New York, flourish so far as they have been cultivated, and will soon become abundant.

"The soil of the middle region differs materially from that of the low country. It bears one general character, and consists of a yellow sandy clay. It produces in great abundance a kind of bunch grass, as also a variety of small shrubbery and the prickly pear. It is on the almost boundless plains of this region that the Indians raise their immense herds of horses. It is no uncommon thing for one Indian to own fifteen hundred of these animals. Large portions of this country will admit of being cultivated, particularly on the river "De Chutes," the Uritalla, and the Wallawalla, while the whole of its vast extent is most admirably adapted to purposes of grazing. The soil, as a whole, though not of the first quality, may be pronounced tolerably good.

"The upper region of Oregon is less fertile than the middle, though there are many thousands of acres in various parts of it of good arable land. What has often been said of Oregon as a whole may be said in truth of a large portion of the upper country, viz. that 'it is an extensive barren waste, capable of supporting but a very small number of inhabitants.'

"But this remark will only apply to the upper region of this vast territory. To apply it to that part of Oregon extending from the Blue Mountains to the Pacific Ocean would be doing the country great injustice; for, instead of this being the case, it is the opinion of those who have been longest in the country, and who consequently know best what the resources of the country are, that this portion of Oregon is capable of sustaining as large a population as *all* of the New England States. In fact, the natural resources of this country are great, and it is only necessary for them to be known to be duly appreciated.

"It is only necessary to present one single circumstance to show what the country would be capable of doing, provided it was filled with an industrious population. It will be borne in mind that in the fall of 1843 an emigration arrived in the country numbering from eight to ten hundred persons. But few of these raised any thing by farming towards their support the first year. In the fall of 1844 another emigration, equal to the former, arrived, and all those persons, numbering at least eighteen hundred, with the former population, which was about equal to the two emigrations, depended upon the products of 1844 for subsistence until the harvest of 1845. Probably not more than one-fourth of the entire population cultivated the land in 1844, yet they were all supported from the granaries of the country. Fifteen thousand bushels of wheat were shipped to the Russian settlements; one thousand barrels of flour were exported to the Sandwich Islands; and thousands of bushels yet remained on hand, before the abundant harvest of 1845 was gathered in. With these facts in view, it does not require much foresight to see that Oregon *can* and *will* compete with any other portion of the world in supplying the islands of the Pacific, the Russian settlements, and every other flour market contiguous, with breadstuffs at as low a rate as can reasonably be desired. In connexion with this, it may be remarked that pork and beef of an excellent quality can be raised in this country with greater ease and facility even than wheat. And the climate being favorable for curing them, the time is not far distant when these articles will also be exported in abundance.

"Already there are many settlers in the country who have from two hundred to five hundred head of cattle, and it is not an uncommon thing for a man to be the owner of one hundred hogs. At present, however, from the great influx of population, these kinds of property bear a high price in the country; but the time may be anticipated when the home market will not be so extensive, and the vast supplies from this quarter must find an outlet.

"As in many portions of the country spruce, fir, and pine timber abound, and as there are many water-falls which afford excellent hydraulic privileges, the facilities for procuring timber in the country are abundant. Already considerable quantities of lumber are exported annually. It should also be observed that salmon in any quantity, and of the very best quality, may be yearly barrelled, which, with the products of dairies that the country offers the greatest facilities for conducting, in addition to what has already been said concerning the products of the country, is sufficient to show that the exports of Oregon, in proportion to the number of its inhabitants, *may* equal those of most other countries.

"There are few countries in which a poor man can place himself above want with greater facility than in this. This is the testimony of every one that settles in the country. But every country has its defects, and this certainly is not free from them.

"It is not the garden of Eden, nor is it a barren desert. It does not 'flow with honey' like the land of Canaan, but in some places it literally abounds in milk. And, though it is not 'a land of wine,' yet in the more necessary articles of 'corn and oil' it greatly abounds.

"Though gold and silver are not yet found in the rich veins of the earth, nor in great abundance in many coffers, yet a competency of whatever is necessary is always awarded to industry and economy.

"That it is a land of mountains and valleys, of rivers and streams, of mighty forests and extended prairies, of a salubrious climate, and a rich and fertile soil, the foregoing remarks will sufficiently show. And, in summing up the character of the country, it may be said to be not the *best* country in the world, but it is well entitled to be called a *good* country."

[*Journal of Commerce*.

POLITICAL HUMOR.

The humor of the London *Punch* is generally keen as well as witty. The following paragraphs are from a late number:

"HARD OF HEARING."—A night or two since Lord Brougham declared that "he had heard nothing of the potato disease!" Mr. Curtis, the aurist, waited upon his lordship the next morning, and has from that time been engaged upon his lordship's ears, with, it is feared, but very little hopes of opening them—to the misfortunes of others.

It is stated that a River Jordan Company has been established for the purpose of furnishing persons in high life with water from that river for christening purposes.

The "Kilkenny cats, or Old and Young Ireland coming to the Scratch," is the title of an engraving which represents O'Connell and O'Brien as cats, with backs up, ready for a desperate encounter:

"Oh, leave them alone,
They'll fight to the bone,
And leave naught but their tails behind 'em."

The following is Punch's copy of the Prussian Constitution:

We have been favored with the following outline of the constitution the King of Prussia has promised to give his subjects on the 3d of this month. We must say we doubt if it will be by any means so good:

1. The tax is to be taken off beer.
2. Every Prussian is to habe full liberty to smoke in the street, or in the theatre, or the Senate, or wherever he pleases.
3. The taverns are to be kept open till 12 o'clock.
4. Government officials are to be allowed to wear moustachios.
5. No Prussian is to serve in the army before the age of ten or after the age of fifty.
6. German students may sing the "Marseillaise" and "Was ist das Faterland!"
7. The duty to be reduced on tobacco.
8. Caricatures to be allowed, providing they are kept strictly to foreign Governments, and do not attack the king or his constitution.
9. Joking to be permitted indiscriminately, to the fullest extent a German is capable of.
10. The censorship on nursery rhymes, books of fashion, bonbon mottoes, and pantomimes to be universally abolished.
11. Passports to be done away with in cases where a person is going on a tour of pleasure not exceeding five miles from his place of residence.
12. The police to be reduced to three millions.
13. Every German to say what he pleases, and to go to bed at what hour he pleases.
14. Free trade to be allowed henceforth with all parts of the world in German sausages, Berlin wool, Presburg biscuits, Prussian blue, and sauer krout.
15. All Prussians to be equal at the table d'hote.